



Illinois Crime Victim Services Division News

October 2006

Office of the Illinois Attorney General

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Welcome to the Illinois Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division newsletter. In this publication you will find information about our programs and upcoming events. If you have any questions about our services, please call our toll free number, **800-228-3368**.

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Springfield, IL 62706

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Crime Victim
Services Division

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OCTOBER is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed in October of 1987. The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children.

Battering is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person with whom an intimate relationship is or has been shared through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Battering happens when one person believes that they are entitled to control another.

It is estimated that between one million and three million incidents of domestic abuse occur each year. Additionally, in 2001, intimate partner violence made up 20% of violent crime against women.

For more information on how you can help end domestic violence, please visit the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence at www.ilcadv.org.

Relocation Expenses & Crime Victim's Compensation

Recent amendments to the Crime Victim Compensation Act have allowed the State of Illinois to reimburse claimants for first month's rent and security deposit as part of relocation expenses. This can be specifically beneficial for domestic violence victims.

To apply for relocation expenses, it must be determined that relocation is necessary as the result of the crime. For example, a domestic violence victim may need to leave a location where the offender is currently living or a sexual assault victim's safety and emotional well-being may be jeopardized at their current residence. In one recent compensation claim, the family of a minor gunshot victim was receiving threats by friends of the offender. Both the victim and offender's friends lived in close proximity to each other. Fearing retaliation, the family requested relocation expenses from crime victim's compensation.

In order to receive reimbursement for first month's rent and security deposit, the claimant must furnish a copy of the new signed lease. The lease must provide the amount of the first month's rent and amount of security deposit. However, it is not necessary for the claimant to already be living at the new location to receive payment. The Crime Victims Compensation staff is aware of the difficulties that a claimant can encounter, financially, in attempting to relocate. We will work with claimants and advocates to try to reduce this burden. If you have any questions about relocation expenses, and how this new amendment may affect your claim, please call our toll-free number and ask to speak with one of the attorneys.

OAG's Statewide Victim Assistance Program is expanding!

In addition to providing services to victims of violent crime throughout the Criminal Trials Process, the Statewide Victim Assistance Program will now be providing services to victims during the Criminal Appeals Process. Statewide Victim Assistance Coordinator will provide information, resources and other support necessary for victims. Because understanding the appellate system is challenging, we created a fact sheet for victims to answer frequently asked questions about the appeals process. A notification form is also available to victims seeking notification during the appeal. Under state law, victims have a right to be notified of the filing of an appeal and the status of their case. We are very excited to extend our services in this way. For more information, contact:

Jennifer Brant: 312-793-0794 or jbrant@atg.state.il.us

Nicole Petruska: 312-814-3167 or npetruska@atg.state.il.us

Crime Victim Services Division programs:

The Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVC)

The Violent Crime Victim Assistance (VCVA)

The Illinois Automated Victim Notification System (IL AVN)

The Statewide Victim Assistance Program (SVAP)

The Illinois Victim Assistance Academy (IVAA)

The Illinois Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (IL SANE)

Illinois Automated Victim Notification System

Illinois Automated Victim Notification (Illinois AVN) is a statewide service designed to empower and protect crime victims while also assisting law enforcement and victim service providers. Illinois AVN is a toll-free, bi-lingual telephone service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide information about offender custody and case status and automatic notification (to those who register) of any change in status.

Victims, law enforcement and the public can access Illinois AVN through a toll-free number 1-866-566-8439. In order to register for automatic notification of a status change the caller may enter up to two telephone numbers at which he or she wishes to receive notification calls and select a 4-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). When a registered person receives a notification call, they will need to provide the PIN to confirm notification. If a PIN is not entered, the system will continue to make notification calls as often as every 30 minutes for 24 hours depending on the nature of notification.

Since Lisa Madigan took office the number of jails brought on to the system increased from 40% to 95% and the Circuit Clerk's office brought on to the system increased from 25% to 94%.

In July, 2003 www.vinelink.com was made available and received the first registration. This is a public website provide by Appriss, provider of the AVN system.

Welcome!

Welcome to Nicole Petruska, the newest staff person to the Crime Victim Services Division. Nicole is working as a Statewide Victim Assistance Coordinator, providing direct victim assistance in criminal cases at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. Nicole joins us from the Racine County Victim Witness Program in Racine, WI.

Nicole can be reached at:
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OCTOBER TRAINING:

Office of the Illinois Attorney General's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner 40 Hour Training Program
 October 16-20, 2006
 Collinsville, IL

Contact Eileen Baumstark-Pratt at 866-376-7215 for registration information